THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) While conveying that the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for setting up of a Bench of the Supreme Court *inter-alia* in South was pending consideration of the Full Court, the Chief Justice of India had stated that he would revert to it as soon as a decision was taken by the said Court. Since the decision of the Full Court is awaited, it is not possible to indicate the time by which the final decision would be taken in this matter.

Vacant Posts in Various Courts

2449. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Wilt the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of posts are lying vacant in various courts;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to fill up those vacancies; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Appointment of District Judges and other judges of the subordinate courts is made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State under the provisions of articles 233-234 of the Constitution of India.

As per the available information, 1500 posts of judges/Magistrates were vacant as on 31.12.1998/1.6.2000 in District/Subordinate Courts all over the country. State-wise details are given in the Statement *(See* below). The Central Government have been

periodically urging the State Governments/Union territories and the High Courts to accord utmost priority to filling up of vacant posts of Judges and Magistrates.

Statement

State-wise Details of Vacant Posts of Judicial Officers As on 31.12.1998/1.6.2000

SI. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of sanctioned posts of Judicial Officers	No. of Judicial Officers as on 1.6.2000	Vacancy Position
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	680	675	5
2.	*Assam	216	204	12
3.	* Arunachal Pradesh	293	293	0
4.	*Bihar	1653	1372	281
5.	Gujarat	626	516	110
6.	Goa	44	36	8
7.	Haryana	266	233	33
8.	Himachal Pradesh	98	90	8
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	161	161	0
10.	Karnataka	640	584	56
11.	Kerala	367	344	23

1	2	3	4	5
12.	*Madhya Pradesh	943	756	187
13.	Maharashtra	1268	1156	112
14.	*Manipur	26	26	0
15.	Meghalaya	7	6	1
16.	Mizoram	34	19	15
17.	Nagaland	21	21	0
18.	*Orissa	384	296	88
19.	Punjab	301	274	27
20.	*Rajasthan	624	624	0
21.	Sikkim	13	11	2
22.	*Tamil Nadu	692	688	4
23.	Tripura	74	43	31
24.	*Uttar Pradesh	1797	1480	317
25.	*West Bengal	544	503	41
26.	A & N Islands	5	5	0
27.	Chandigarh	19	16	3
28.	Delhi	385	249	136
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	2	0
30.	Daman & Diu	2	2	0
31.	Lakshadweep	3	3	0
32.	*Pondicherry	17	17	0
	TOTAL :	12205	10705	1500

*As on 31.12.1998 (including posts of Special Judicial Magistrates).